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ment of Great Britain might, with entire consistency, and with a conscious rectitude of purpose, ask this Government to refer all its differences with England to arbitration."

It is possible that Mr. Livingston, in presenting this resolution immediately on the heels of Mr. Cremer's visit, may not have been animated by the best possible motives. Of his motives we know nothing directly, but the point which he makes is certainly rightly taken. Our country could not be expected to enter into an arbitration treaty with Great Britain, unless it were clear that the latter country were acting from genuine attachment to the principle of arbitration as such. We are sorry that there should be anything in the way of an immediate response being given by our Government to the noble and courteous memorial of the 354 members of the British parliament. Our friends on the other side of the water, more particularly the International Arbitration and Peace Association, have already strongly urged the British Government to follow the suggestion of President Cleveland, and it is permitted to hope that the Venezuela trouble, which has now reached its culmination, may soon find a satisfactory adjustment. This being out of the way, there is scarcely a doubt that Washington will respond quickly and heartily to the memorial from London.

SCHOOLS OF WAR.

The days of American militarism are hastening along. While the people sleep, the tares are being rapidly sown. Under the pretense of a revival of patriotism, the school boys of the country, if these would-be military patriots are to have their way, are all to be trained in the arts of war and turned into "The American Guard." This is a high-sounding name, and many will be blinded by it to the dangers to our civil and religious liberties lurking behind the military organization which it is proposed to fasten upon the schools. The militia of the country has already become "The National Guard." Those American citizens who want to follow the war methods and the high-sounding titles of the old world would do well to give a little honest thought to the prostrate and helpless condition into which a universal militarism, with its Imperial Guards and whatnot, has brought the peoples of Europe, before they advance any further along the perilous road on which they have started and into which they purpose to allure the country by capturing the bright young school boys. We do not doubt that they mean well, just as the man did who put the chilled serpent into his bosom to warm it. But right intentions need to be directed by right wisdom, as we shall find to our sorrow a generation hence, if we suffer the spirit of the old world to dictate our policy along this line, as we seem now disposed to do.

Many will say, with raised shoulders, that we are alarmists, that there is no danger, that we shall stop at just the right point. A military company is organized in a school or a boys' brigade in a church, and the evil

results prophesied do not appear in a few months or a few years even, and forthwith these wise patriots and advanced Christians are greatly pleased with the success and the seeming innocence of their scheme and brand as foolish and unpatriotic all who, looking to the harvest of the future, venture a word of protest. It was apparently a very simple and undangerous thing, unworthy of any serious attention, that a long while ago a Dutch vessel came to our shores and unloaded a few slaves. But the rebellion and the civil war with all its horrors lay in the unloading of those first negro captives. It is the first Canada thistle which crosses the line that does the mischief. We make pitch our plaything and never suspect what blockheads we are making ourselves, until we try to wash out its deep-set stains. We live as if there were no future, as if the world ended with the going down of the sun, and thus we play the fool on a stupendous scale.

Col. H. P. Butler has drafted a bill, probably already introduced into the legislature for the military organization of the public schools of the State of New York. The organization is to be known as "The American Guard." The unit of the organization is to be a squad of eight boys. Six squads are to make a company, four companies a battalion, three battalions a regiment. The new United States army drill regulations are to be followed. Col. Butler's bill provides for the expenditure of \$100,000 in order to fully equip every organization of "The American Guard" in New York State. The outfit is to remain the property of the State, and the principals of the schools are to be held responsible for it. In order to bring the influence of Mars as near to the cradle as possible, the boys are to be admitted into the squads at the age of eleven. The school principals are to be "commandants," in order to entice them to favor the scheme. The State inspector-general is to examine the organization once a year.

We shall await with interest and anxiety the action of the legislature of the great Empire State on the subject. If the project fails to become a law, it will probably be from indifference rather than from intelligent opposition to it. Let all those in the State who wish to see our civil and religious liberties preserved from all sorts of tyranny do what they can immediately to create a strong public sentiment against Col. Butler's bill and all other bills of like kind. The friends of the measure are active and untiring and will not rest satisfied until every city school in New York State is bristling with bayonets, if it is in their power to bring this about. The great State whose seaport opens out to all the world ought to set the example of a different sort of patriotism from that which frowns with cannon and gleams with deadly steel.

Mr. Ephraim Appleton Lawrence who had been connected with the American Peace Society for more than fifty years died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. R. D. Lockwood, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 20th of December.